



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258



AFEB (15-1a) 91-4

28 August 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH AFFAIRS)
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Coordination of Infectious Diseases Research in the
Department of Defense

1. The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) has long recognized the need for coordination between the services in the conduct of infectious diseases research. The Memorandum of Agreement for Infectious Disease Research between the U. S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, the Naval Medical Research and Development Command, and the Air Force Human Systems Division, was signed and became effective on 4 March 1991. The AFEB strongly endorses the concept of a coordinated infectious diseases research program and views this agreement as an essential step in achieving optimum program management within the Department of Defense (DOD). In the spirit of this objective, the AFEB provides the following recommendations:

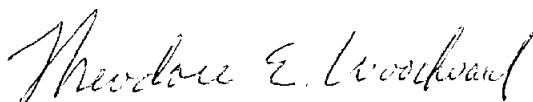
- a. THAT THE CONDUCT OF A FULLY INSTITUTIONALIZED COORDINATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BE STRUCTURED AND EXECUTED ON THE BASIS OF A TRUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SERVICES. SUCH A PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE AN EQUITABLE, PARTICIPATORY AND TIMELY PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET EXECUTION PROCESS.
- b. THAT JOINT TECHNOLOGY COORDINATING GROUPS TWO (JTTCG-2, INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF MILITARY IMPORTANCE) AND FOUR (JTTCG-4, MEDICAL BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE) OF THE ARMED SERVICES BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (ASBREM) SYSTEM, AS THE DESIGNATED JOINT SERVICE COORDINATING BODIES, BE STRUCTURED TO REFLECT EQUALITY OF SERVICE REPRESENTATION, AND OBJECTIVELY ADDRESS DOD AND SERVICE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS. BOTH JTTCGs SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERTISE IN THE SCIENTIFIC, MANAGEMENT, MANPOWER, FACILITIES AND FUNDING AREAS IN ORDER TO BEST DEFINE PROGRAM COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION. THE JTTCG-2 SHOULD ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE 1982 JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE WHICH PRESERVES THE INTEGRITY OF SERVICE LABORATORIES, PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL CAREER PATHS. THE JTTCG-4 SHOULD FUNCTION IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE JOINT SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE COORDINATION AND PERFORMANCE OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEFENSE RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

SUBJECT: Coordination of Infectious Disease Research in the
Department of Defense

- c. THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OF 4 MARCH 1991, AND ASBREM PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE, THE RESPECTIVE JTCG BE CONVENED AS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT IMPACT ANOTHER SERVICE'S PROGRAM. THE CONVENING OF THE JTCG SHOULD BE IN A TIMELY MANNER TO ALLOW A FULLY COORDINATED ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS.
- d. THAT THE AFEB AT ONE OF ITS ANNUAL MEETINGS, PREFERABLY IN JUNE OF EACH YEAR, BE APPRAISED OF DOD INFECTIOUS DISEASES SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE, APPLICATION OF RESOURCES, PRODUCTIVITY, AND QUALITY OF RESEARCH.
- e. THAT THE AFEB, AS AN ADVISORY GROUP, MAINTAIN AN AWARENESS OF DOD ACTIVITIES ON PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS RELATED TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES. TOWARD THIS END THE BOARD WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND A SELECTED BOARD MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE JTCG-2 OR JTCG-4 WHENEVER IT IS PERCEIVED THAT ITS CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE HELPFUL.
- f. THAT THE APPROPRIATE JTCGs BE CONVENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS EXISTING FISCAL 1992 AND OUTYEAR RESOURCE ISSUES, WITH THOSE NOT RESOLVED REMANDED TO THE ASBREM OR SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE LEVEL, AS APPROPRIATE, FOR ADJUDICATION.

2. The Board recognizes and is sensitive to the issues and conflicts associated with the consolidation of the Army and Navy infectious diseases research program. Both services have a long and distinguished record of contributions to the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. However, it is the opinion of the Board that it was not the intent of the Congress, nor is it in the best interests of the Department of Defense, for a single service to assume total responsibility for the conduct of all DOD infectious diseases research, and the Board does not endorse such a single service role. The Board strongly endorses the team approach embodied in the Memorandum of Agreement of 4 March 1991, and the Joint Service Agreement, and will provide whatever assistance as may be required to ensure the highest level of quality in our infectious diseases research program.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:



Theodore E. Woodward, M.D.
President



W. M. Parsons, Ph.D.
Captain, Medical Service Corps
U. S. Navy
Executive Secretary

AFEB (15-1a) 91-4

28 August 1991

SUBJECT: Coordination of Infectious Diseases Research in the
Department of Defense

Copies Furnished:

Board Members

Ch, HQ, USAF, SGP

Ch, Prev Med Div, OTSG-DA

Ch, Prev Med Div, OTSG-DAF

Dir, Occup Hlth & Prev Med Div, BUMED-DN

DASD(HA) (PA&QA)

Cmdr, US Army Med R&D Cnd

CO NAVMEDRSCHDEVCOM

Dir, Prof Svcs, OTSG-DA

Dir, PA&QA, OTSG-DAF

Dep Cmdr, Flt Read & Supp, BUMED-DN

Dir, Env & Life Sci, OUSDA Attn: Dr. J. Osterman, Ph.D.

Cmdr, HSD, Brooks AFB

Spec Asst R&D, MED-26, BUMED-DN